

Classical Art Research Centre - Gandhara Connections Project

Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT HAYATABAD, PESHAWAR

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1pm, Wednesday 29th November, 2017

The Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar conducted a two-months excavation (summer, 2017) at the settlement site in Peshawar. This site is located in the modern town, Hayatabad (Peshawar), 33°59'42.66"N and 71°26'30.06"E. It is placed on the left side of the main Torkham Road just before the industrial zone of Hayatabad. The site consisted of a low mound of considerable size which is now reduced to a very small area after modern construction.

The recent excavations exposed stone and mud-brick structures and circular burnt places (furnaces). The walls are straight and interconnected at right angles. The most significant feature of this site is the discovery of a workshop area. These workshops usually comprised large wide-open terracotta pots, cone-shaped crucibles, stone platforms, grinding stones, stone sharpeners and circular furnaces. These features were used for blacksmith's industry and bangle making cottages as well. Iron ore and objects, particularly arrowheads and finger rings, are reported from these excavations. Among other finds were human and animal figurines, stone and terracotta beads, shell and glass bangles. The human figurines are usually female, of baroque style, as found at Shaikhan Dheri (Charsadda) and Taxila. Potsherds of broken pots are reported in abundance and shown from medium to thick fabric. The pottery is encountered is normally red but a few gray pieces are also reported. The upper parts of some pitchers and other dishes are richly decorated with black paintings.

Apart from this, eight copper coins were unearthed from different layers. They are still corroded and require proper treatment and preservation. However, a design of a bull/lion is traceable on one example which is usually depicted on the coins of the Indo-Scythian king, Azes II. Hence, the main period of this site is first century BC, which might be extendable to the first century AD and 2nd century BC too. The dates of other periods will be confirmed from coins when they are properly treated and cleaned.

To book a place please contact carc@classics.ox.ac.uk

We regret that places are very restricted.